

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 21-23, 27-30 and 35-36.

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are listed below.

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Previously Added) An isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

25. (Previously Added) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide of claim 24.

26. (Previously Added) A cell transformed with the recombinant polynucleotide of claim 25.

Claims 27-30 (Canceled)

31. (Previously Added) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:9,
- b) a polynucleotide complementary to the polynucleotide of a),
- c) an RNA equivalent of a) or b).

32. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

33. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 32, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide and optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

Claims 35-36 (Canceled)